



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

October 25, 2017

Stephen Twyerould, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer and President
Excelsior Mining Arizona, Inc.
2999 North 44th Street, Suite 300
Phoenix, AZ 85018

Re: Public Notice of Intent to Issue a Class III Underground Injection Control Area Permit and a Proposed Aquifer Exemption For the Excelsior Mining Arizona, Inc.'s Gunnison Copper Project

Dear Mr. Twyerould:

This letter is to notify you that the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9 (EPA) has prepared a draft Class III Underground Injection Control (UIC) Area Permit for the Excelsior Mining Arizona, Inc. (Excelsior) facility known as the Gunnison Copper Project (Project) for public review and comment, in accordance with 40 CFR § 124.10. Copies of the Public Notice, Statement of Basis, draft Aquifer Exemption (AE) Record of Decision, and the Draft Permit are included with this letter. We have published a public notice in the Arizona Range News and the Sierra Vista Herald on October 25, 2017. During the comment period, the documents are available for public review at the Elsie S. Hogan Library in Willcox, Arizona. These documents are also available through the EPA Region 9 web site at:

<https://www.epa.gov/uic/underground-injection-control-permits-region-9>

Other documents used in supporting the Draft Permit are also part of the administrative record and available through the EPA Region 9 office.

The comment period for the proposed permit will close on November 24, 2017. EPA is also concurrently requesting comments on the proposed AE Record of Decision for the Project. During the public comment period, any interested person may submit written comments or request a public hearing. Any hearing scheduled by EPA would require a 30-day notice to the public. All comments will be considered and will be responded to in making our final decision on the proposed permit and the proposed AE.

Please call either me at (415) 972-3431 or Nancy Rumrill at (415) 972-3293 if you have any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Audrey Johnson".

Audrey Johnson
Acting Manager, Drinking Water Protection Section

Enclosures: Public Notice, Statement of Basis, Draft AE Record of Decision, and Draft Permit

Cc w/out enclosures: Rebecca Sawyer, Vice President, Sustainability, Excelsior
Dave Dunaway, Arizona Department of Environmental Protection